

Town Council Meeting May 10, 2021

Present: Lee Adams, Frank Vari, Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Ed O'Hara and Town Attorney Tom Yeager.

Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Clerk Tonya Lockwood and Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Walls

Absent: Randy McLennan

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:31pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Approval of Minutes

- Town Council Meeting April 12, 2021-at the next meeting
- Town Council Workshop April 26, 2021
MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Hill. All in favor, motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

- National Safe Boating Week May 22-28, 2021
- Peace Officers Memorial Day & Police Week

Introducing Budget Ordinance 2021-02 – A Budget Ordinance adopting the Budget of the Town of Chesapeake City for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Public Hearing

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to open the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget Ordinance 2021-002 A Budget Ordinance adopting the Budget of the Town of Chesapeake City for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to close the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to approve the Budget Ordinance 2021-002. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance No: 2021-001 – to amend Section 6.5 Signs of the Chesapeake City Comprehensive Development Ordinance

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Adams.

No public Comment

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Vari to Close the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Councilman Adams: The sewer plant foundation is going in, the old sewer plants are still a problem; meeting with County and KCI to come up with a plan to move forward; No water breaks since the last meeting. Easements have been sent to residents on Mt. Nebo. Town Manager updated his approvals for the Commission.

Councilman Hill: Read the account balances, a copy is part of the Minutes Book. Historic Commission Report – approved three new members at the last meeting, at this meeting we chose a new Chair Ashley Miller, Vice-Chair Sarah O'Hara. Discussed actions from the last meeting.

Councilman McLennan: Absent

Town manager read the stats from the past month; report is attached to the Minutes Book. Councilman Adams mentioned there's been a better presence on Biddle Street. Community Service Patrol person started this month. Will report at the next meeting.

Councilman O'Hara: Farmers Market has been a washout two weeks in a row because of weather; we have high hopes for this Friday. Town seems to be busy on the weekend, water tours are happening.

Councilman Vari: Public Works – hopefully you have seen your list of what roads and sidewalks need repaired, please review and let us know if there are any additional ones. Wednesday there will be inspections of the playgrounds. Calling for volunteers for Parks and Recs and to help Joanne Healy that's doing the gardening and bedding. Waste/Recycling -met with MPK for new contract which we will renew and extend. There will be a new flyer of do's and don't for recycling. Last year numbers look good, haven't heard the results from the County. We will be having a New Year's Day 5K. May be a little different, looking for timers. Special Events – Farmers Market – unable to fight Mother Nature; hoping for better weather. Attended the Grand Opening of the Museum; Great job by Holly, Ava and Rowen; shows great history of the Town. Been in contact with Delegate Hornberger meeting in June to meet with Secretary to get Ben Carden Trail designated as a State Park extended to the Elk River. We may be turning the curve on COVID, please keep the 6ft distance, wear your mask when you can; hoping to be meeting in Town Chambers in July. We need congratulation letters to the seniors, by the first Thursday in June.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager spoke with Hodges working towards a goal for some different concepts for the old Elementary School by the workshop. Councilman O'Hara questioned if they had looked at other options beyond the non-profit route? Have we taken steps for other developers? The Mayor acknowledged that it is a valid concern, but we are moving forward with Home Partnerships. If it doesn't work out, we would look for other developers. Councilman O'Hara questioned if we don't know what other options are, how would we decide? The Mayor agreed, however, at one point we were under time restraints, but we do not have them now. Home Partnership has poured substantial funds into this and will stop if there is not a contract. They are requesting an informal letter of intent or a MOU from the Town before any more money is spent. The housing part is the engine that makes the non-profits work, including the library. Councilman Adams commented that if we don't handle it right, the county can keep the property and or sell it to whomever they want. Right now, we have input. We're working with a group that'd done this type of job in the past. We can make up our minds if we want it or not. We can't keep kicking the can down the road. If there's more options, someone needs to step forward.

Councilman O'Hara brought up the point that we haven't put out an RFP. We need three or four plans, not just one. The Mayor stated Home Partnership isn't going to keep putting money into this. The County is in a listening mode with the current plan, but they are not committed. Councilman Hill stated that if we go back now for an RFP, we'll lose 6-12 months and the County may decide to do something else. Cecil County will own the land and they like the idea of community services in the area.

Town Manager met Chesapeake City Water Tours, reviewed the taxi for both the north and south sides areas. Extra trash cans were added. There's a posted schedule people can count on. Weather updates and delays will be posted on TJ's website.

Valerie Walls, Treasurer: We're ready for the Election; Four people running for three open spots on Council.

Mayor Rich Taylor: Apologized for missing the National Day Prayer.

Action Items

- Vote on Tax Rate for 2021/2022

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to keep the Tax Rate at the current rate of \$.4688 per \$100. All in favor, motion carried.

- Re-Appointment: Historic Commission -Kelly Copeland (5 Years)

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Hara to appoint Kelly Copeland for a five-year term to the Historic Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Re-Appointment: Appeals Board: Alan Myers, Marty Salmon, Findlay McCool, Cindy Ortt (3 yrs)

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Hara to re-appoint Alan Myers, Marty Salmon, Findley McCool and Cindy Ortt to the Appeals Board for a three-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

Event Application: Independence Day Celebration

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to approve the event application for the Independence Day Celebration. All in favor, motion carried.

Note: Bay Heads will need an Emergency Ordinance for Open Containers. Verify the levees will be used to for parking.

Event Application: Chesapeake City Running FEASTival

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Vari made a motion to accept the Event Application for the Chesapeake City Running FEASTival. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments -None

Mayor & Council Comments

Councilman Adams has received his first Covid shot and goes back on the 4th for his second shot.

Councilman Hill congratulation the ladies that did the work in the Museum. They did a great job.

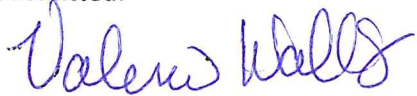
Councilman O'Hara believes the Farmers Market will happen this weekend; no rain in the forecast.

Councilman Vari concurs with Councilman Hill, a lot of good work went into the Museum.

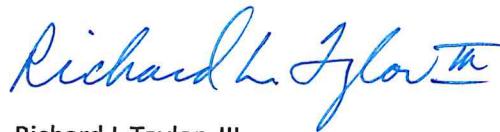
Mayor Taylor: Agreeing with Councilman Vari, it's a real tribute to Harriett Davis.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted:



D. Valerie Walls
Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor, III
Mayor